

SAVE THE DATE



DELTA WORKING LANDSCAPES

Working Landscapes:
What are They, and What do They do?
Wednesday, October 24, 2012
3 pm - 5 pm

Jean Harvie Community Center
14273 River Road
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Working Landscapes are projects which enable farmland to be utilized as valuable wildlife habitat by providing opportunities for **private landowners** to combine environmental stewardship while **protecting agriculture**.

Working Landscapes integrate wildlife conservation with productive agriculture. **Benefits** include: **subsidence reversal; salinity control; waterfowl habitat; invasive species and weed control; urban encroachment restraint; runoff reduction;** etc.

A detailed agenda will be distributed closer to meeting date.

Light refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions or need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Protection Commission at (916) 375-4800 or dpc@delta.ca.gov



DELTA WORKING LANDSCAPES PROJECTS

The Delta Protection Commission's Working Landscapes projects set out to improve the environmental quality of existing landscapes in the Delta; coordinate programs with local farmers to understand the social, economical, environmental and governmental policy hurdles and incentives to perform conservation practices; and communicate to farmers the advantages of implementing wildlife friendly agricultural practices.

The agricultural and wildlife resources on the Delta face threats from a variety of land use and management problems. Subsidence of peat soils through oxidation and wind erosion, soil salinity, erosion of perimeter levees, invasive species, urban encroachment, and crop changes are some of the problems which threaten the integrity of the Delta's agricultural productivity and wildlife resources. Working Landscapes provide an opportunity to integrate wildlife conservation with productive agriculture on the same land.

Delta Working Landscapes approaches these problems through a variety of methods. Planting vegetative buffers along irrigation ditch banks and hedgerow plantings to improve water quality by reducing runoff of pesticides and sediment, and farming approaches which can benefit wildlife and other environmental aspects will be implemented. Farm cultural practices ideal for wildlife friendly agriculture, such as rice conversions will be identified and considered for seasonal flooding and restoration to increase winter wildlife habitats. Projects such as these will also support water quality, salinity control, subsidence reversal, weed control, as well urban encroachment.

CURRENT PROJECTS

In September 2008, the Delta Protection Commission was awarded a \$800,000 grant from the Department of Fish and Game to implement Working Landscape projects throughout the Primary Zone of the Delta. After subcontractors, Hart Restoration and Ducks Unlimited were established a series of public meetings were held to establish partnerships with local landowners interested in these projects. 11 sites were identified which would fulfill the project goals for wildlife friendly farming practices and restorations. Please see page 2 for project descriptions.

All the sites contained existing landscapes which could be improved through the Projects. These landscape included irrigation ditches, subsided crop land, duck clubs, etc. No easements, MOUs, fee purchases or eminent domain were used.

Project Table

Project Name	Project Partners	Project Size	Project Goals	Status
Uslan Farms	Uslan Farm, Ducks Unlimited.	6 Acres	Uslan Farms contains a 60 acres of agriculture. 4 acre brood pond and 2 acre managed seasonal wetland with associated upland habitat. Will also be part of the SLEWS program.	Construction August 2012
Winchester Vineyards	Ducks Unlimited, Hart Restoration, Winchester Vineyards, Winchester Lake Ski Club	6.5 Acres and 2700 linear feet	Restoration of low lying crop land not suitable for farming. Berms and a habitat island were constructed for duck habitat. Native tules were planted along, "Winchester Lake" slope to prevent levee erosion. Tules will also serve as aquatic habitat.	complete
Herringer	Herringer Vineyards, Hart Restoration	13,000 linear feet	Wildrye and sedge grass were planted on the slope of Elk Slough to prevent levee erosion as well as vegetation to prevent burrowing animals.	complete
Vino Farms	Vino Farms, Hart Restoration, Ducks Unlimited	7200 linear feet and 2 Acres	Restoration of irrigation ditch. Ditch was planted with native grasses to reduce runoff from adjacent vineyard. Grasses serve as valuable habitat for small birds. Created a permanent freshwater wetland on 2 acres for migratory waterfowl use.	complete
C&M Orchards	C&M Orchards, Ducks Unlimited	3 Acres	Improve 3 acres of unfarmable land through creating low berms and vegetative buffers to trap flooded water into swale pond. Pond will serve as valuable waterfowl habitat in winter months.	Construction will be complete summer 2012
Generations	Generations Duck	20 Acres	Create 20 acres of managed	Construction to

	Club, Hart Restoration, Ducks Unlimited		seasonal wetlands. Currently the site is a failing native grass land.	be complete fall 2012
Berryhill Duck Club	Berryhill Farms, Ducks Unlimited, Hart Restoration	140 Acres	The current farm has poorly drained soils that can be used to for seasonal flooding. Low interior and perimeter berms facilitate winter flooding capabilities for corn fields. Harvested flooded corn creates a feeding area for migratory waterfowl.	Construction will be complete fall 2012
Wilson Farms	Wilson Vineyards, Hart Restoration	5200 linear feet	Sedge and rush grasses were planted along the Elk Slough Slope to prevent levee erosion.	complete
San Joaquin Delta Farms	San Joaquin Gun Club, Ducks Unlimited, DFG, USFWS	134 Acres	Creation of a seasonal wetland and brood pond on a 400 acre cereal crop farm.	complete
Amistad Ranches	Van Loben Sels Farms, Hart Restoration	3000 linear feet	Native grasses were planted along the levee of Snodgrass Slough to prevent erosion. Additionally, wildrye, sedge, and rushes were planted along the irrigation ditch to reduce runoff from irrigation.	complete
Kidco Project	Vino Farms, Hart Restoration, Ducks Unlimited	3100 linear feet	Runoff created such a hostile environment it was difficult for vegetation to survive along the irrigation borders. Area was improved through planting native grasses and vegetation. Wildlife has returned to the area.	complete

